GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1130
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
IMPORT OF COCONUT/COCONUT OIL
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that reduction in prices of Coconut and Coconut Oil due to large Scale import of these products has adversely affected the domestic coconut producers;

(b) if so, whether coconut producers from all over the country have requested the Government to impose ban on import of these products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) : Representations have been received regarding imposing restriction on import of coconut and coconut oil from various producers` associations and public representatives. Presently import of coconut other than desiccated coconut is restricted from countries other than SAARC.Import of copra and coconut oil is canalized through State Trading Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited.Total imports of coconut and coconut oil for the last year and for this year upto August are as follows:

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Sl.NO.	Item	Value of import (1999-2000)	Value of import (April-August, 2000-01)
1.	Coconut	0.52	13.28
2.	Coconut (copra) Oil	1362.4	432.2

Provisional, Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

As can be seen, with present import policy and the present level of imports, the decline in prices of coconut and coconut oil, if any, cannot be attributed to imports.

However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications and environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic producers.

The imports are being closely monitored and Government would strive to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.